

A big water grab that won't die

Here we go again! Cadiz plans to squeeze Mojave Desert's aquifers

From Sierra Club reports

More than 30 years ago, a company called Cadiz Inc. came up with a plan to pump water from aquifers in the Mojave Desert. Ten years ago, late desert activist Elden Hughes and other Sierra Club members who had worked hard on the Desert Protection Act opposed the project that could forever harm the desert's ecosystem and drain one of its most precious resources.

Now, the plan resurfaces anew as do concerns about its viability and impact on the land. The Santa Margarita Water District in Orange County is interested in buying the water. So what's so wrong with this water mining plan that stands to make \$1 billion to \$2 billion off water sales for Cadiz? Plenty.

It's unsustainable: This project is located in the desert of Southern California in an area with very low precipitation. Cadiz Inc. intends to remove 50,000 acre feet to 75,000 acre-feet of water per year for 50 years and sell it to local water agencies in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. However, most scientists estimate the recharge rates are much lower. The U.S. Geologic Survey estimates that it



TOM POLITEO/CAMERA COMMITTEE

A plan to pump water from deep below the Mojave Desert has raised environmental concerns.

lies between 2,000 acre feet and 10,000 acre feet a year. This means the groundwater levels will drop and drop, like taking more water out of a bathtub than you put in. This is, simply, unsustainable.

It could have adverse impact on

federal lands and water resources: Cadiz Inc. claims there will be no impacts to the Mojave National Preserve's springs, but the National Park Service says that conclusion is premature. Another significant issue is the delayed response in the aquifer.

The cone of depression, or area of drawdown, is more extensive in the 100-year scenario (after 50 years of recovery) versus the 50-year scenario (at the end of project pumping). This indicates that unforeseen impacts that occur as a result of project

ACTION

The Chapter's Water Committee actively opposes the Cadiz Inc. water-pumping plan. To become involved in this campaign, contact Charming Evelyn at bcharnz@aol.com.

pumping, even if project pumping is halted immediately, will continue to manifest for an extended period of time. Therefore, the aquifer system will be very difficult to manage under the monitoring and mitigation plan.

Its impacts analysis is flawed: The analysis suffers in reliability as a result of the flawed hydrologic modeling. Of note are the continuously expanding outer limits of the cone of depression, or area of drawdown from pumping, after 100 years. Additionally, the cone is anticipated to extend to elevations approaching the head at Bonanza Spring, which is located in Sen. Dianne Feinstein's proposed Mojave Trails National Monument. The plan could affect this important spring.

Bottom line: This project is an aggressive water mining scheme that could adversely impact water resources, air quality and our federal lands.

Ever hear of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal?

Probably not, but the massive global trade proposal packs an environmental dark side.

From Ilana Solomon and Sierra Club reports

There's been a scuttle of congressional activity surrounding what one newspaper has said "may be one of the most important stories ever ignored by the media."

But it's not entirely the media's fault. Nearly everyone — the press, members of Congress, the public — have been in the dark about the specifics of a massive trade pact that's currently in the works. The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, or TPP, trade deal is the most expansive one ever to be negotiated, but the negotiations surrounding the pact are taking place in nearly complete secrecy, with little opportunity for substantive public input.

In mid-June, more than 130 members of Congress have signed and sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk calling for transparency in these negotiations. Led by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-Ct.) and Congressman George Miller (D-Calif.), the letter urges Kirk to include stronger congressional consultations and a more open and transparent process.

The letter says, in part: "We are troubled that important policy decisions are being made without full input from Congress. Under the trade advisory system, representatives from over 600 business interests have such access to both USTR negotiators and the negotiating text. However, American small business, civil society, and other interests who have a direct and long-term interest in the outcome of these negotiations have little meaningful input."

Also in June, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio introduced a new bill called the 21st Century Trade and Market Access Act. It is essentially a model of what responsible trade

policy should look like. The Sierra Club has always been an advocate for fair and responsible trade which helps lift up standards for environmental protection, workers' rights, and other public interest policy. Senator Brown's bill advances this vision.

Among other provisions, the bill calls for increased consultations with Congress on trade agreements and establishes rules for future trade agreements. For example, the bill stipulates that trade agreements must include legally binding and enforceable environmental provisions that require countries to implement and enforce their own environmental laws in addition to obligations under multilateral environmental agreements.

The bill also ensures that public interest policies, including environmental laws and regulations, would not be subject to attacks by massive foreign corporations. This is particularly important, given that a recently leaked draft of the Trans-Pacific Partnership investment chapter confirms that the agreement would give corporations the right to sue governments for unlimited cash compensation — based on rulings by private tribunals — over nearly any law that they argue is hurting its expected their future profits. It's shocking but not unprecedented; dozens of environmental laws and regulations have been challenged under past trade pacts with similar rules, like NAFTA.

The TPP is the most significant opportunity to update trade policy for the 21st century and to learn from the mistakes of NAFTA and other trade deals.

The Sierra Club applauds the members of Congress who signed the letter to USTR calling for increased transparency as well as Senator Brown for his leadership on defining a trade agenda that supports environmental protection, American jobs, and a healthy economy.

Ilana Solomon is a trade representative for Sierra Club.



SIERRA CLUB

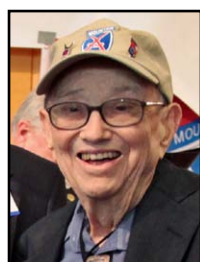
Activists in Texas protest the proposed Trans-Pacific trade pact in May.

TPP elevates corporate power at public expense

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a multilateral free trade agreement that aims to further liberalize the economies of the Asia-Pacific region. Currently, 11 countries are party to the negotiations including the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The U.S. joined the talks in November 2009, and both Canada and Mexico will be taking part in the 13th round of negotiations that begin in July. By this time next year, Japan is expected to join. The Agreement is designed to be expandable to accommodate new members.
- The TPP would impose a set of extreme

foreign investor privileges and rights and their private enforcement through the notorious "investor-state" system. This system elevates individual corporations and investors to equal standing with each TPP signatory country's government- and above all of us citizens.

Under this regime, foreign investors can skirt domestic courts and laws, and sue governments directly before tribunals of three private sector lawyers operating under World Bank and U.N. rules to demand taxpayer compensation for any domestic law that investors believe will diminish their "expected future profits."



Sierra Club climber Glen Dawson turns 100!
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Explore hidden Hawaii on this tour of tropical Oahu.
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Become a 1000 at \$100 donor



BOB CATES

The Angeles Chapter sponsors a robust outings program and important conservation campaigns.

By Ron Silverman
SENIOR CHAPTER DIRECTOR

For more than 100 years the Angeles Chapter has been a constant force in the environmental landscape. We have weathered good times and bad, flush times and lean. When tough times called for us all to pitch in for the good of the Chapter, we did. We survived through the Great Depression in the 1930s and went on to thrive and create monumental change. We were not spared by the recession of 2008.

Despite increasing costs and declining donations, our Executive Committee, in partnership with our tiny, yet crackerjack staff, has been doing all it can to be financially responsible while maintaining the basics needed to run our Chapter. But now we need your help.

The truth is we have been having a cash flow crisis for the past year. Assistance is needed to maintain the day-to-day operations that many of you depend on for your daily activities within the Chapter. We recognize the need to provide you with the best service we can. Strides have

been made – the recent launch of our new, more interactive web site is just one example. However, for our Chapter to continue, we must raise funds today. We can't do it without you.

If ever there was a time for you to dig deep and support your Angeles Chapter that day is today. As we strive to reinvent the Southern Sierran and reconfigure the Schedule of Activities to meet the current needs of Chapter members, we need your financial help. Please donate now.

We understand that even the smallest gift is a struggle for some and we appreciate any and all donations, but we also recognize that for many a more substantial donation is possible. To that end we are establishing a new group of donors known as the "1000 at 100", aimed at enlisting the aid of 1,000 of our members to donate at least \$100 to ease our funding crunch and allow us to continue our ability to provide local opportunities to enjoy, explore, and protect the environment.

If you can't give \$100 all at once, please consider making a monthly donation of \$10. Or do both.

How to donate

We asked for your help and many of you have already responded to our e-mail appeal. Thank you!

For those who haven't yet gotten the word, here's your chance to make a difference for the Angeles Chapter.

Make a donation now by going to <http://angeles.sierraclub.org> and clicking on the "Donate Now" button. Or make a check out to Angeles Chapter Sierra Club and mail it to:

Angeles Chapter Sierra Club;
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 320;
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Making a one-time and/or monthly donation is quick and easy. As a "1000 at 100" donor, you will be recognized on the website for your generosity.

Together, we will ride out this storm and once again return to calm waters. A heartfelt thank you.

Dear readers,

Here's a great way to stay on top of all the happenings and news events at the Angeles Chapter.

Any member may opt-in to receive a print copy of the Southern Sierran by calling (213) 387-4287 Ext. 212 or e-mailing southern.sierran@sierraclub.org with the subject line "Opt-in by print." Be sure to include your membership mailing address.

But here's a better idea: Send us your e-mail address with the subject line "E-news" to receive updates from the Chapter.

You can also see news, events, cool hikes, fabulous trips and more on our web site: angeles.sierraclub.org. And, you can download current and past editions of the *Southern Sierran* there too.

With your support, we will continue with our important conservation mission and outings program. Thanks!

— Mary Forgiione



Letters

In the May/June issue of the Southern Sierran, writers David Freeman and Shaun Burnie use a lot of ink trying to rally support for stopping nuclear power in California. What they leave out of the article are the likely alternatives to nuclear generation and the related external or hidden costs.

Utility rate-making and the regulatory process ensure that risks and costs are subject to public input and review. Recent trends in deregulating non-nuclear sources of electricity, in which Freeman has played a role, make costs and risk much more opaque to the public. Independent power producers, like the infamous Enron, do not have to justify their rates or risks. The fuels they use, such as coal, natural gas, waste oil, trash or others are not subjected to the rate-making process, nor are their efforts scrutinized by the federal government.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's authority to keep a nuclear power offline until its concerns are resolved is unquestioned, and almost without precedent.

Yet the non-nuclear plants, and their flammable fuel stockpiles, un-inspected piping and chemical handling hazards, have been placed in the middle of our California coastal cities for decades. Even if only domestic energy incidents are examined, one can readily see that events such as the San Bruno pipeline explosion, Upper Big Branch Mine, and the [Deepwater Horizon] oil spill serve as ready testimony as to where the true risks lie.

There's no reason to believe that alternate methods of electricity production would be safer than nuclear. The risks from the toxic materials used in solar panels, installing the panels on roofs, and their required maintenance do not make headlines like Fukushima, but the risks are real and calculable. The real issue is that there is no mechanism in place that exposes those costs to public review. Non-nuclear electricity only looks so good because of what you don't see, and much of that is CO2.

—William Doyle
Laguna Niguel, CA

Going solar (at last!) with Sierra Club's expanding program

By Michael Brune
SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Let me start with a confession: I'm the executive director of the country's largest environmental organization, and I don't have solar panels on my roof. Now wait a minute. Before you judge, I do have a few justifications. We have young children and funds have been tight, we had been planning to move for a while, we were saving up to buy a house, etc. All valid reasons, if I say so myself. But still, no solar.

Until now.

Last year, the Sierra Club ran a pilot program in California to spread the news to our members and supporters that there's never been a better time to add solar panels to

their roofs. It was a big success, so now we're expanding to seven states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York. If you're a homeowner in one of those states and decide to buy or lease a rooftop solar system through our partner, Sungevity, you can power your life with sunshine for as little as \$0 down.

That's not bad, but it's far from the only reason you should check out the program. Solar is as clean as it gets and with the price of solar panels dropping dramatically, there's never been a more affordable time to install a system. You can help displace dirty coal, or fracked natural gas, or even nuclear power, one home at a time. You'll also lock in an affordable rate and protect yourself against soaring

electricity rates in the years ahead.

The first step is to do what I did: Request a solar iQuote. By using a satellite view of your roof like the one in Google maps, Sungevity can make a preliminary estimate of your system's size. According to my iQuote, a solar system on our family's roof would eliminate about 89,000 pounds of carbon pollution during my lease, which is the equivalent of planting 1,037 trees (or of not driving 101,915 miles).

After you supply Sungevity with data on your utility bills, they can also give you an idea of exactly how much you can expect to save (based on the plan you choose). On average, Sungevity customers save about 15% on their electric bills.

Generally, people who can afford to purchase a system outright will get the biggest overall savings, but there are advantages to leasing a system besides not having to write a big check (solar panels have gotten

a lot cheaper recently, but they're still a significant investment for most homeowners). One is peace of mind: Sungevity is responsible for the maintenance of leased systems, and they continuously monitor performance to make sure everything's working right. And when your lease is finished, you can always opt to purchase the system at fair market value. For more on how solar leases work, see our website.

There are plenty of great solar installers across the country. The Sierra Club chose to partner with Sungevity because we support their vision to grow a grassroots movement of clean-energy homeowners. If you choose Sungevity, you'll receive a \$750 cash gift card -- and Sungevity will contribute an additional \$750 to the Sierra Club. Not bad. The best reason to start harvesting all that free sunshine that's falling on your rooftop, though, is that each kilowatt hour of solar you generate

Related Info

How easy is it to make your home more energy efficient? Here's how one Sierra Club member did it (Page 4).

If you want a free quote on the cost of solar panels for your home, go to www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes to learn more.

either replaces electricity that might otherwise come from burning a fossil fuel like coal or natural gas. And if you charge an EV or plug-in hybrid vehicle at home, you're displacing yet another dirty fossil fuel -- oil (and saving still more money).

Getting an iQuote doesn't cost anything and takes only a few minutes. If you're a homeowner like me who's been itching to go solar, give it a try -- and let me know how it goes.

Read more of Michael Brune's blog at <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/michael-brune>.

Southern Sierran

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Accepted submissions and images may also appear on Sierra Club websites.

Advertisers: To advertise, call 213-387-4287, ext. 212. Deadline for the September/October issue is August 5. Or e-mail sierran-ads@politeo.net

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Club supports wind energy credit

It's critical for the country's move to renewable energy.

From National Sierra Club reports

The Sierra Club in June launched Wind Works, a new campaign to advocate for renewal of the Production Tax Credit, or PTC, for wind energy. The credit is a federal tax policy that helps level the playing field by providing the certainty the wind industry needs for continued growth.

"The Wind Works campaign is the Sierra Club's move to the next level, in advocating for renewable energy jobs and ensuring America transitions to a clean energy economy," said Dave Hamilton, director of the Club's Clean Energy of the Beyond Coal Campaign. "Congress is holding thousands of high-quality

American jobs in their hands, but every day of uncertainty for the industry is causing more delayed projects and more layoffs. This campaign will ensure lawmakers know that Americans want clean energy solutions and that they won't sit back while congressional inaction causes further job losses."

There are currently 75,000 jobs supported by the wind industry across the country. Renewing the PTC will help sustain and create more American jobs while helping to protect public health by moving the country beyond dirty energy. However, the PTC is set to expire at the end of this year. Already, the failure of Congress to renew the tax credit has led to layoffs as companies delay or cancel plans for new wind installations and factories. If the PTC is allowed to expire, the American Wind Energy Association

estimates that approximately half of all existing American wind jobs will be lost before the end of the year.

Moving America toward a clean energy future will not only create new, high-quality American jobs, but will also yield significant public health benefits. Renewable energy like wind power replaces energy from fossil fuels that cause air pollution, which leads to heart attacks, asthma attacks and more than \$100 billion in medical costs.

Wind energy is an important part of America's energy mix. More than 400 American manufacturing plants build wind components, and wind is supplying 25 percent more electricity to Americans than it was a year ago. States like Iowa and South Dakota already generate 20 percent of their electricity from wind power and that number is growing quickly.

The Sierra Club is putting signifi-



DARRELL CLARK

Windmills in Tehachapi, Calif., generate electricity.

cant resources behind the "Wind Works" campaign to help America continue its transition to renewable energy. Through a variety of tactics, ranging from grassroots organizing to paid media, the campaign will work to ensure the wind energy

industry continues to be a job creator, and to remind lawmakers that wind works: for the economy, for the environment, and for America.

For more information, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/wind-works>.

Sierra Club member No. 14



TOM POLITEO/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Top from left, Bruce Campbell, Howard Koch, Glen Dawson, Bob Meyerhoff. Bottom, Los Angeles Councilman Tom LaBonge with Dawson.

Glen Dawson is fond of saying he considers himself a contemporary of John Muir. Indeed, he was 2 years old when the Sierra Club founder died in Los Angeles in 1914. But his connection to the Club goes far deeper.

More than 250 Sierra Club members, historians, antiquarian booksellers, friends and family members turned out in June at a Pasadena club to wish Dawson a happy 100th birthday. Susana Reyes of the Political Committee presented Dawson with a tribute on behalf of the Angeles Chapter, as did many others who came to honor the mountaineer, environmentalist, historian and antiquarian bookseller.

Dawson made a first ascent of the East Face of Mt. Whitney with climbing greats Jules Eichorn, Norman Clyde and Robert Underhill in 1931 and participated in the famous High Trips in the Sierra with Ansel Adams and other early Club leaders. During World War II, he was a member of the famed 10th Mountaineer Division, and three of his contemporaries were on hand to celebrate his birthday.

And he has a Sierra Club membership that identifies him as No. 14. Aurelia Harwood, the first woman president of the Club, offered the gift to his brother, Muir, but Dawson's dad told her his older son, Glen, would benefit more from the membership. (Dawson jokes that he made good with his late brother on the membership.)

--Mary Forgione

Briefs

Lobby like its 1892 - and you're John Muir!

John Muir, the Sierra Club's founder and intellectual touchstone of California's environmental movement, realized early on that it takes more than a strong appreciation of nature to protect the state's natural heritage.

Sierra Club California seeks activists to participate in its annual Lobby Day in Sacramento. On Sunday, Aug. 19, you will be trained in best practices and briefing on Capitol politics that will help you be more effective. On Monday, Aug. 20, volunteers meet with legislators and their staff members.

Sign up for Lobby Day at sierraclubcalifornia.org/lobby-day-2012/. Just 50 spots are open.

—Kathryn Phillips, director, Sierra Club California

Want to run for the Executive Committee?

Each year, the Chapter's Nominating Committee invites potential candidates to run for the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. But there's another way to become a candidate too. Any Chapter member may petition to put his or her name on the ballot after filing a petition containing 40 signatures from members. Petitions must be submitted by 5

p.m. on Sept. 5.

Here's what the petition should say: Above your signature list, type or print: "The undersigned current members of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club are signing this petition to nominate the above-named candidate for the annual election of at-large Executive Committee members in November." Also number the signature list 1-40.

For more information, contact Charming Evelyn, Chair of Nom Com, at bcharmz@aol.com or call (213) 387-4287.

We're looking for more than a few new members

Come find out what the Sierra Club can do for you and why you should be a member on Aug. 13.

Bring a friend and come meet with members of the Orange County Group, Sierra Sage, Sierra Singles in Orange County and L.A., Hundred Peaks Section, Wilderness Travel Course, Mule Packs and learn about the chapter's many activities and conservation campaigns.

Meet 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Community Center (1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa). For more information, contact Chapter Membership Chair: Donna Specht at donnaspecht@juno.com

BRIEFS/PAGE 8

Before that old clunker pushes up daisies Why not donate it?

We'll take your car, RV, or boat running or not.

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Contact Ron Silverman
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If you're looking for a special gift...

Why not send a personalized Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Tribute or Memorial Card?



It's the perfect way to say you care and help the Angeles Chapter

Within 24 hours, we'll send a customized card suitable for any happy or sad occasion.

Contact Ron Silverman
213-387-4289
Ron.Silverman@sierraclub.org

Make someone smile -- do it today!

Go solar with Sierra Club!



Sierra Club has partnered with solar home specialist Sungevity in offering homeowners a chance to install rooftop solar panels easily and affordably. The offer is good in California as well as Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland and New York.

Here's why it matters:

You can lock in your electricity rate for the next 20 years, free yourself from dirty energy, and do it all with no upfront investment. Most homeowners start saving on their power bills immediately. And if you go solar this summer, you'll get a \$750 cash gift card.

Powering your home with solar energy is the single best way to shrink your carbon footprint, the equivalent of taking 1.5 cars off the road.

Sungevity will give \$750 to the Sierra Club for every homeowner who installs solar panels in their home through this program. This means more money for Sierra Club's important environmental campaigns in California.

Last summer more than 150 Californians took advantage of Sierra Club's Solar Homes Pilot Campaign. This year, we've expanded -- and you may qualify this year, even if you didn't qualify before.

To learn more about the program, go to www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes or contact Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson at Jennifer.Robinson@SierraClub.org.

Home, sustainable home

What paint you choose, what insulation you use and even what appliances you buy all matter.

By Gabrielle Weeks

When my husband and I bought a 1922 Craftsman a year ago, we started making changes that would transform it into a sustainable home.

First we were picky about the paint we used. We avoided what's called VOC paint, that is, paint with volatile organic compounds, carbon-based chemicals bad for human health. Every hardware chain carries better paints in a million colors, just read the label. It's the same price as the stinky stuff that warns you to use in a well-ventilated room and off-gasses for weeks.

Next we took steps to make the house more energy efficient. We added door sweeps; weather stripping around doors, under window sashes and the attic hatch; gasket insulation behind outlets and switch plates; caulking around pipes as they enter walls; and checked the fireplace damper. These steps were easy to do using nothing more complicated than a screwdriver and caulking gun.

We also bought thermal lined drapes, available wherever drapes are sold. The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home ranges from 5% to 30%. This saves money on heating and cooling bills. For \$20 we got a water heater insulation blanket, saving more on heating water.

Then we tackled our electricity use. We put a six-outlet power strip (\$4) between the wall and our TV accessories (leaving the TIVO connected to record shows). This takes away the phantom electrical draw of TV, DVD and our Playstation. Then we did the same for computers, printer, scanner, speakers, and again in the kitchen with microwave, toaster, etc.

We set our thermostat to low so we wouldn't be wasting air-conditioning when we're not home or have the house heating up at night. The heater is set to go off a half hour after we go to bed and before we wake. It was easy to find the instructions to this thermostat online. All these were cheap and easy and can be done in a single weekend.

We also invested more in our home by buying a front-loading high-efficiency washing machine. It spins so much water out of the laundry that a clothes line in the backyard works fine -- no dryer needed.

In the kitchen, we chose a top freezer refrigerator. It's most efficient because cold sinks. We bought non-toxic shredded denim attic insulation; you don't need to bring toxins in your home to insulate your house. Because it wasn't fiberglass, we were able to spend a very dirty weekend cutting and rolling that out.

After improving energy efficiency, we made the big leap of having solar panels installed on our roof. Obviously, conserving energy and water is cheaper than creating solar power or desalinating water.

Saddleback Butte, a treasure in Antelope Valley

By Elaine Macdonald

From Lancaster looking eastward toward Lake Los Angeles, you will see an isolated hill or butte rising abruptly above the western edge of the Mojave Desert. The butte is in the shape of a saddle. The story of this little-known butte has recently become a topic of concern in the Antelope Valley.

Last year, California's Department of Parks and Recreation decided to shut 70 state parks as of July 1 of this year because of state budget cuts in spending. Though some parks on the list have been spared because of donations or nonprofit operators who agree to run them, Saddleback Butte State Park was scheduled to close July 1 but received a temporary reprieve.

Saddleback is an important park for the Antelope Valley and has a unique history. In 1955, Jane Pinheiro, one of the founders of the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, along with other civic groups established the Antelope Valley State Park Committee. Shortly after the committee was established, the saddle-shaped butte on the far east side of Lancaster was acquired by the state. In 1972, the park on the east side was renamed Saddleback Butte.

In October 2010, Saddleback Butte State Park celebrated its 50th anniversary. It's known for its granite mountain top that towers some thousand feet above the broad alluvial bottom land of the Antelope Valley. It features a short paved trail called the Richard Downen Nature Trail and two good hiking trails that wander through the 2,955 acre park. The hiking trails connect with the Buttes Peak Trail and connect to the park's horse trail established in 1994.

Saddleback Butte Horse Trail

In the early 1990s, I trailered my horse from Lancaster to Saddleback. My intention was to ride around this interesting desert butte. When I found signs indicating "No Horses in the Park," I contacted Vick Maris, then superintendent for Mojave Desert State Parks. He was surprised that a park named Saddleback did not have a place for horses, and an effort began to create a horse trail at the park. Obtaining approval for this trail was complicated but finally a grant was approved for fencing off the upper part of the trail to protect the desert tortoise and raptor habitat. The 4½ mile trail was marked off with rocks, which was an arduous task.

The trail work was completed with the assistance of park personal, Antelope Valley Trails,



Editor's note

The Sierra Club opposed the plan to shut 70 California State Parks because of the state's fiscal crisis. As of press time, almost all of the parks on the closure list had been given a reprieve. Some parks formed private-public partnerships and were taken off the list early on; for others, the plan to keep them open isn't completed yet. The Club and the Save Saddleback Butte Committee (www.savesaddleback.org) urged Californians to write their public officials in Sacramento to keep all state parks open. Right now, we hope that's the plan. But it will take some time to make sure that each park has a worthy operator (whether it's the state or another group), and that members of the public will be able to access these valuable lands and museums.

Recreation & Environmental Council, ETI Corral 9, Lake LA Risers 4-H Horse Project, Scout Troop 586 and the Camp Fenner crew. Spearheading the project was myself, Deborah Stevens and Ed Skinner (now deceased). Since the creation of the horse trail, I have enjoyed many years of riding through this unique area. Now there's an effort afoot to spare the park



from being closed due to the budget cuts.

The Poppy Reserve/ Mojave Desert Interpretive Association is the parent organization of the Save Saddleback Butte Committee. For the past several months, hikes and horse rides have been organized to showcase the beauty of this natural setting.

Closing dirty coal plants makes U.S. leader in reducing carbon emissions

From Sierra Club reports

Since 2006, the U.S. has seen the largest reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of any country or region, according to a recent report from the International Energy Agency. The report states that, during this time, U.S. carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by 7.7% or 430 million metric tons, primarily due to a decrease in coal use. This decrease is equal to eliminating the annual greenhouse gas emissions from more than 84 million passenger vehicles.

The Sierra Club has been active with its Beyond Coal campaign to ensure the existing fleet of outdated coal plants gets cleaned up or phased out. The campaign seeks to create new solar and wind-energy jobs. (Visit www.beyondcoal.org.)

America has long been criticized by the international community for not taking a leadership role in reducing carbon emissions. But it's clear now that the work being done to move the country beyond coal is having a significant effect.

Coal was responsible for 33% of U.S. electricity in May, down from 50% just 10 years ago. According to analysis by the Vancouver Observer, carbon dioxide emissions from the average American are now at the same levels that they were in 1964. These reductions put America on track to meet the goal President Obama set in the Copenhagen Accord of 17% carbon dioxide emission reductions by 2020.

"Americans should be heartened by the report that U.S. carbon emissions have dropped by nearly 8% over the past six years," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club. "This significant milestone is a testament to the hard work of thousands of volunteers around the country, who are working to retire dirty, outdated coal-burning power plants."

Angeles Chapter Adventure Travel Calendar

These fund-raising trips are open to Sierra Club members and non-members alike. Each one presents a value for participants and raises funds for the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. For more details and how to sign up, go online to angeles2.sierraclub.org/get_outdoors/travel_adventure.

Bali Island and Komodo Dragons Sept. 9-24

O-rated: This is the Chapter's first trip to peaceful Hindu Bali and Flores Island, home to the famous komodo dragons. Highlights include spending a number of days in each location. Trip includes transportation (planes, boats, and coaches) as well as accommodations (based on double occupancy), some meals/happy hours, all park/museum entrance fees, guides, tours and more. The price is \$1,695 per person plus discounted group international and domestic airfares. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leader John Lajeunesse at lajeunes@pacbell.net (use subject line "Bali").

Historical Virginia and Nearby Sept. 23-30

O-rated: Tour Williamsburg; Jamestown, the first English settlement in America; and Yorktown Battlefield where George Washington won the climatic battle of the Revolutionary War. Other highlights include Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered; Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson; the Shenandoah Valley and the Appalachian Trail; and more. Trip includes lodging, airport

transfers, admission fees, breakfasts (lunches, dinners, airfare to and from Washington, D.C., are not included). Trip cost per person is \$1,250 for Sierra Club members/\$1,350 for non-members. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter, Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage. Contact: Leaders Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net), Mary Morales, Patty Sappingfield.

Argentina, Chile, Patagonia Feb. 2-18, 2013

O-rated: Explore the wilds of Patagonia on this 17-day active adventure. Meet in Buenos Aires and then fly to southern Argentina and cross into Chile. Participants spend five days hiking in spectacular glaciated landscape of Torres del Paine National Park. In Argentina, travel by boat on Lago Argentino to view the massive terminus of the Perito Moreno Glacier. Side trip visits a local Patagonia Estancia (ranch) on the pampas. Then embark on three days of hiking to explore the beautiful lagunas (lakes) around El Chalten and hike to Laguna Torre to get a view of the famous Mt. Fitzroy and Glacier Grande, weather permitting. Condors, herds of rheas and guanacos, as well as many other animals may be seen during this trip. Optional side trip to spectacular Iguazu Falls also offered. Price includes hotels and lodges, private transportation, most meals, airport transfers, catamaran tour, most activities. Domestic and international airfare is extra; group airfare rates available. Trip cost per person for Sierra Club members is \$3,995 before



Yellowstone National Park in Winter Jan. 13-20, 2013



VAUGHN HART/CAMERA COMMITTEE

C/O-rated: Watch for wolves, bison, elk, mountain goats, arctic birds, swans at its winter best. Super opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography. Icy air enhances geyser scenes at Mammoth Hot Springs, Norris, Old Faithful and West Thumb geyser fields. Spend five days with a Yellowstone Association tour guide who knows where to go to see wildlife and guide participants on walks, snowshoe and cross-country skiing activities around geyser fields. Bonus: Dinosaur exhibit, Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana. Trip includes

travel by snow coach, hotel stays, ground transportation, guides two days of cross-country ski options, daily breakfast, most lunches and one dinner. Group size is limited to 10. Trip cost per person is \$2,210 for Sierra Club members, \$2,235 for nonmembers; \$500 deposit holds a spot, with the balance due by Sept. 1. Sponsored by Angeles Chapter, Verdugo Hills Group. For information on itinerary, cancellation policy, application, contact: Leader Judy Anderson (anderson-judith@att.net) and Assistant Leader: Carol Henning



Hawaiian Adventure Sept. 11-17

O-rated: This popular Hawaiian hiking trip takes you to parts of O'ahu that few tourists ever experience. We will go on four beautiful hikes of varying difficulty into the tropical rain forest. Three of these are 5-plus miles, with moderate elevation gain. The group will hike to waterfalls and along flowing streams. Every trail leads us through lush vegetation to magnificent scenic views. Participants also will snorkel at Hanauma Bay State Park, which offers some of the island's finest snorkeling. Occasionally you may even see turtles! Start your Aloha experience the first morning with a group surfing lesson with a world famous Waikiki Beach Boy. Swim, surf, and listen to island music daily at Waikiki Beach. Price includes round-trip flight, 6 nights' lodging and ground transportation. Cost is \$1,295. Reserve ASAP. (\$40 deposit, balance due Aug. 1.) Limit 25. E-mail the leader and write "Hawaii SEPT 2012" in subject line. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter and Orange County Sierra Singles. Contact: Leaders Richard Glick (rmglick@cox.net), Christine Dickey.



RICHARD GLICK

Sept. 15; \$4,095 after Sept. 15; nonmembers add \$100. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Leaders Fred Dong (madelinesdad@earthlink.net) and Kath Giel (bear980@gmail.com).

Thailand Cultural & Wildlife March 14-April 2, 2013

O-rated: See the cultural gems and wildlife of Thailand on sightseeing and easy hiking adventures. Itinerary includes Bangkok to the mountainous areas of the north: 3 days in Bangkok visiting the Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew, reclining Buddha in Wat Pho temple, boat trip in Bangkok canals, Thai theater performance, National Museum, Royal Barge Museum and more. Also Sukhothai; historic capital at Ayutthaya; wildlife viewing at Khao Yai National Park; temple complex of Si Satchanalai; birding at Doi Inthanon; Chiang Mai; Chiang Rai and more. Optional add-on tour to Phuket. Price includes hotel, bus transportation, most meals, airport transfers, most hikes or walks, and more. Domestic and international airfare is extra (group airfare available for additional price). Sierra Club members \$1,895 before August 31; then \$1,995. Non-members add \$100. Sponsored by the Angeles

Chapter. Contact: Leaders Fred Dong [(818) 545-3878], Stephanie Gross, Maew Suchin

China Highlights & Yangtze River April 20-May 4

O-rated: You are invited on a well-paced journey to China. Explore Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City where the Emperors of Ming and Qing Dynasties lived. Climb the Great Wall, take a boat cruise on the Grand Canal of Hangzhou and visit Suzhou's silk factory to watch the reeling process of unwinding silk filaments from cocoons. Set sail to the Yangtze River and enjoy fantastic vistas of deep and quiet gorges and magnificent peaks that seem carved by axes. Take a shore excursion to the Shennong Stream, where you may see the ancient roads and even some golden-haired monkeys. Also you'll visit Xi'an's most important archeological site, where thousands of life-size terra-cotta warriors have been guarding the Emperor's burial site for over 2,000 years. Price is \$3,395, including round-trip air transportation from LAX, and three domestic air within China; deluxe hotel (double occupancy), three meals daily, admission fees and guides.

ADVENTURES/PAGE 6

Why L.A.'s plastic bag ban matters

By Sarah Mosko

The City of Angels in May joined four dozen California jurisdictions banning single-use, plastic carry-out bags. L.A. is the largest city in the nation to approve such a ban – an issue that has been a priority for the Angeles Chapter's Zero Waste Committee.

Chapter members have been active on this issue and rallied at City Hall on May 23, hours before the L.A. City Council voted almost unanimously to ban the flimsy "T-shirt" style carry-out bags and to phase in a 10-cent fee on paper bags.

An earlier proposal also included a ban on paper bags, but the Council decided instead to wait two years to decide whether a ban on paper was needed or whether enough people had switched to reusable bags, the real goal of the plastic ban. The bag ordinance is expected to be enacted before year's end and a six-month grace period will follow so consumers can adjust to the change and retailers can use up their stockpiles of plastic bags. The ban does not include plastic bags used for fresh produce or meats.

Why is a plastic bag ban so important? The L.A. Bureau of Sanitation

estimates that the city uses 2.3 billion plastic bags and 400 million paper bags a year, while the bag recycling rate is only 5% for plastic and 21% for paper. The rest end up in landfills or, worse still, as litter.

Plastic bag litter is not only an eyesore on land but also fouls waterways like the L.A. River and kills marine animals who mistake the bags for food. Plastic bags are a significant source of ocean pollution because they are made from natural gas, a non-renewable resource, and do not biodegrade. They fragment over time into bits of plastic thought to persist in the ocean environment beyond any meaningful human time scale.

The Long Beach-based Algalita Marine Research Foundation has measured the buildup up of plastic debris in an area of the Pacific twice the size of Texas and dubbed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which, in 1999, already contained six times more plastic than zooplankton. Analysis of ocean samples collected a decade later indicates that the ratio of plastic to plankton has risen six-fold. Even off the coast of Southern California, Algalita has found plastic debris at all ocean depths in amounts sometimes twice

that of zooplankton.

In March, the 2010 ordinance by L.A. County that banned plastic bags and placed a 10-cent fee on paper bags was upheld in Superior Court. Other California jurisdictions which have enacted similar bans include San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Palo Alto, Santa Clara and San Jose in the northern region and Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica, Calabasas and Malibu in the south. Many more ban ordinances are in the works across the state, including in Pasadena, Dana Point, Laguna Beach and Huntington Beach, to name a few. The Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, a group of plastic bag makers and distributors, is putting forth a tremendous effort to block this spread of plastic bag bans in California through legal challenges.

A California Supreme Court decision in July 2011 eased the way for local plastic bag bans by ruling that the City of Manhattan Beach, because it is a small community, did not have to complete an environmental impact report (EIR) about disposable paper bags before barring retailers from dispensing plastic ones. A bill proposing a statewide ban failed in 2010, even though



CHRISTY BECK

From left, Chapter volunteers Hillary Gordon and Sharon Ford, with Conservation Coordinator Jennifer Robinson appear at a rally at Los Angeles City Hall before the vote on the plastic bag ban.

it was supported by the California Grocers Association on the basis that the patchwork, city-by-city bans create confusion for both retailers and shoppers (AB 1998).

Opponents of the ban, representing the plastic bag trade and a lobbying group for the plastics industry, had argued that a ban would cost jobs and that paper bags are just as bad for the environment because of the energy used to make them. If California had passed a ban, it would have been the first of its kind in the

nation, though Hawaii has since become the first state with plastic bag bans in every jurisdiction.

The fact remains that throwaway plastic bags are wasteful and easily replaced by reusable bags. The fast pace at which local bans are cropping up in California hopefully signals the end of the single-use, plastic bag era.

Sara Mosko is an activist with the Angeles Chapter. Read more environmental articles by her at www.BoogieGreen.com.

30 years of trail time with Stag Brown

By Joe Young

On Sunday, June 3, the Hundred Peaks Section offered a special outing called the "first Sunday in June hike with Stag Brown." The first of these special outings was conducted on June 6, 1982, so this marked the 30th anniversary of these annual events.

Stagalee Thurston Brown, whom everyone calls Stag, has been a Sierra Club member since the late 1960s and a leader since the early '70s. He began leading for the HPS and for the Griffith Park Section in the mid-1970s. Stag and Bob Thompson were prolific leaders on HPS outings, and they have led more than 100 hikes together since the 1970s.

Stag served for several years on the HPS Management Committee, serving as outings chair, social program chair, and section chair. He was the first person ever to be chosen chair of the HPS twice, in 1983 and 1990. The HPS presented him with the John Backus Leadership Award in 1979, and its highest award, the R. S. Sam Fink Service Award, in 1989. He also received a special award for "motivation" in 1984.

The Angeles Chapter presented Stag with an outings service award in 1979 and with the prestigious Chester Versteeg Outings Award in 2003.

For many, however, Stag is best known for his leadership of adventurous hikes in Griffith Park. Stag has led a hike in Griffith Park every Wednesday since the mid 1970s. Because of his love of the park, he and his bride Nami chose to hold their wedding at the popular spot Dante's View on July 20, 1985. (Many couples have met each other for the first time as a direct result of participation on a Wednesday hike in Griffith Park with Stag.)

In 1982, Stag and Joe Young scheduled an



JOE YOUNG/HPS

Stag Brown, on Liebre Mountain.

outing "just because" it was the first Sunday in June that year. Since Stag had become known for leading hikes along unusual paths, they decided to bag Sugarloaf Mountain near Big Bear Lake directly from the community of Sugarloaf and via the peak's west ridge. Although matters got off to a rocky start - Joe had told everyone to meet at "the" Safeway store in Big Bear Lake, not realizing that there were two such stores! Eventually everyone got together and caravanned to the road head and the hike proceeded without

incident.

Thereafter, Joe and Stag scheduled a hike each year on the first Sunday in June. Some of the more memorable outings included a brushy ascent of Circle Mountain from Highway 138; a hike to Grouse Mountain, which happened to be covered with slushy ice following an unusual hail storm the previous day; and a weekend outing of peak bagging which included attendance at the Ojai Musical Festival on the Saturday night between day hikes. Then there was the outing to Lockwood Point and San Rafael Mountain where we completed the hike at around 10 p.m. and a hike up Pacifico Mountain during a heat wave (temperatures over 100 degrees) and we lunched under a wonderful shade tree near the summit.

This year Joe and Stag returned to Liebre Mountain, located east of Gorman in the Angeles National Forest. The route followed the beautiful Pacific Crest Trail almost to the summit. Indeed, there were many Pacific Crest Trail hikers en route to Canada.

Stag is now an octogenarian, and his adventurousness has mellowed somewhat. However, he still makes the weekly treks to Griffith Park and leads hundreds of people each year, many enjoying their introduction to the park, some hiking for the first time with the Sierra Club.

And he still leads the annual L.A. Christmas by Night hike, where he and his followers distribute food and clothing to the homeless living on the streets of downtown Los Angeles.

Mark your calendars for June 2, 2013. We don't know where we will go, but be assured some HPS listed peak will be our destination.

Joe Young is hike leader and editor of the Hundred Peaks Section newsletter.



FRED DONG

Downtown Urumqi, a stop along China's Silk Road.

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Airline taxes/fuel charge of \$480 and visa, are subject to change are not included. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Leaders Andrea Lim and Salud Salinda. Send email to and-realm94@yahoo.com and please insert subject line "China 2013."

China Silk Road and Gobi Desert

Oct. 5-19, 2013

O-rated: See seldom visited sights on the China Silk Road and the Gobi Desert. Visit mountains, deserts, living historic sites, rare wildlife and abandoned cities on this adventure where few Western tourists travel. Highlights include historic Urumqi's Great Bazaar, historic buildings, Tian Shan Mountains and lakes. In Turpan, see ruins of ancient Jiaohe city, ancient aqueduct system, beautiful Imin Minaret, old city, Tuyu Valley, and more. In Liuyuan, visit Bizaklik Thousand Buddha Grottoes,

Flaming Mountains, Gaochang ancient city ruins, and Astana Tombs. In historic Dunhuang, visit old city, Mogao Thousand Buddha Caves, White Horse Pagoda, Crescent Moon Springs, and see the Gobi Desert. In Jiayuan, visit western end of Great Wall, and nearby mountains. In Xining, tour Taer Monastery, Beichan Lamasery, Buddhist temple and region's largest mosques. The trip will go to the end of the Silk Road, Xian, to see famous Terra Cotta Warriors and Museum. Optional Beijing tour available. Cost: \$3,095 until Feb. 28, (March 1 and later, \$3,195) includes round-trip airfare from LAX to Beijing, all transportation, four-star hotels, nearly all meals, admissions, guides. Taxes and visa fees are extra. Sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. Contact: Send home and work phone numbers, Sierra Club membership number, e-mail or 2 self-addressed stamped envelopes, deposit check \$400 (Sierra Club) to Leader Bruce Hale: 3025 Alabama St, La Crescenta, CA 91214; (818) 957-1936. Co-Leader: Fred Dong

Advance Notice

Arches and Canyonlands April 28-May 5, 2013

O-rated: Come with us on an 8-day, 7-night fly-and-drive excursion to eastern Utah to explore and enjoy two national parks: Arches, with more than 2,000 arches ranging in size from a few feet to several hundred feet, and Canyonlands National Park, with deep canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers. Fly to Grand Junction, Colo., then drive in vans to Moab, Utah. Moab will be the base with day trips into national parks. Trip cost is \$1,250

for Sierra Club members; \$1,350 for non-members. It includes lodging (double occupancy) and land transportation to and from Grand Junction and around Moab. All park admissions are also included. Breakfasts and three lunches will be provided. All other meals and airfare to and from Grand Junction are not included. For copies of the itinerary and application forms, contact Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net) or send 2 self-addressed stamped envelopes to Mike at 26352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. \$500 deposit will hold a reservation with the remainder due by March 1, 2013. Sponsored by the Sierra Sage Group and the Angeles Chapter. Leaders: Mike Sappingfield and Sylvia Stevenson.

Olympic National Park and Victoria Excursion July 20-28, 2013

O-rated: Join us for an 8-day, 7-night excursion to explore the wonders of the Pacific Northwest's fabulous Olympic National Park and a ferry ride to Victoria, Canada. Sample the delights of the city and explore Bouchart Gardens before returning to Seattle via a ferry winding through the San Juan Islands. Lodging, admissions, and transportation while on the trip included. Airfare to and from Seattle and most meals not included. Cost for the trip is \$1,195 for Sierra Club members; \$1,250 for non-members. To reserve a spot, send a \$500 deposit (check made out to Sierra Club-Sierra Sage) to Mike Sappingfield, 26352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. For information, call or email Mike at 949-768-3610 or mikesapp@cox.net. Sponsored by Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage Group and the Angeles



TOM POLITEO/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Olympic National Park.

Chapter. Leaders: Mary Morales, Mike & Patty Sappingfield

Seattle Getaway July 18-20, 2013

O-rated: Join us for a 3-day, 2-night exploration of the wonders of the city of Seattle, Mt. Rainier and Mt. St. Helens. This can be taken in conjunction with the June 20-28 Olympic National Park and Victoria Excursion or as a separate trip. Lodging for 2 nights, transportation while on the getaway, admissions and breakfasts are included. Airfare to and from Seattle and most meals are not included. To reserve a place, send \$395 for Sierra Club members; \$425 for non-members; to Mike Sappingfield a 26352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. For information, call or email Mike at 949-768-3610 or mikesapp@cox.net. Sponsored by Sierra Singles, Sierra Sage Group and the Angeles Chapter. Leaders: Mary Morales, Mike & Patty Sappingfield

Calendar

Events

July 10

Monthly Meeting, Orange County Group. Ron Vanderhoff, of the California Native Plant Society presents "Off the Path with Ron: Native Plant Adventures in the Wilds of Orange County, Part II." Meet at REI in the Tustin Marketplace 2962 El Camino Real Tustin, CA. Newcomers welcome! Sponsored by the Orange County Group. For more info go to: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange>.

Sept. 10

Monthly Program for 20s & 30s & 40s Night in Costa Mesa: Meet our leaders and event hosts, learn all about our upcoming activities and help plan the next year's ski trips, multi-day adventure trips, overnight backpacks, car camps, short and long day hikes, beach parties, house parties, game nights, snorkeling and anything else we are inspired to plan. Meet 6:30 p.m. for social hour, 7 p.m. program. \$3 donation. Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles. Contact: Charles G. Geller. (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ocss>)

Sep 20

Newcomer/Member Information Night: Come and discover the Sierra Club and learn about many activities in your neighborhood and adventure outings offered by the largest Sierra Club chapter in the nation. Join Sierra Club for \$15 special introductory rate and receive a free gift. Meet 6:30 pm, LA Zoo in Griffith Park, 5333 Zoo Dr, LA, 90027 (follow Sierra Singles signs to meeting room). Sponsored by the Membership Committee and Sierra Singles. Contact: Jeanne Karpenko (818-244-0733)

Outings

July 13 and every Friday

Pacific Palisades Hike in Topanga State Park To Parker Mesa Overlook, O-rated Spectacular view of the LA Basin and Santa Monica Bay. Moderately strenuous, 5 miles, 1,100 feet of gain. Optional dinner at restaurant afterward. Meet 6:45 pm

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OUTINGS LEGEND

- O** Uncomplicated hikes on trail
- I** involves off-trail travel
- C** Concessionaire-controlled event (non-Sierra Club)
- T** Technical skills

Changes: Trips subject to cancellation without notice.

Outings info: For more hike listings, please see the Schedule of Activities or visit: www.angeles.sierraclub.org, click Outings

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you participate on an outing, please go to: www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms, or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Seller of Travel identification number: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the state of California.



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CALENDAR/PAGE 6

at Los Liones Drive at Sunset Blvd (off PCH) for rideshare to trailhead. Bring flashlight. Sponsored by the West L.A. Group and Sierra Singles. Leaders: Ed Lubin, 310-208-5886; Marshall Ratinoff (lataxman@att.net).

July 14

Buckhorn to Little Rock Creek, O-rated: 5 miles round-trip, 900 feet of gain/loss. Pass through forest of jeffrey and sugar pine, incense cedar, alder, oak and ferns. Lunch beside a bubbling creek. Meet 9am La Canada rideshare pt. Bring potluck serving for 8 or your own, water, hiking boots. Sponsored by Sierra Singles, the Natural Science Section and Orange County Group. Leaders: Al Moggia 323-661-1530, Ron Schrantz.

July 15 and Aug. 18

Historic Seal Beach Walk, O-rated. Enjoy fresh ocean air and exercise while viewing historic sights and learning about Seal Beach's colorful past on this four-mile evening walk on mostly level terrain. Meet 5:45 p.m. at the Seal Beach parking lot (end of 1st Street, south of Pacific Coast Hwy). Sponsored by Orange County Group/Orange County Sierra Singles. Leader: Patricia Barnes, Asst Joe Maynard. (http://angeles.sierraclub.org/orange)

July 20-22

Lemon Lily Festival in Idyllwild, O-rated: Celebrate Idyllwild's third Annual Lily Festival at Idyllwild Nature Center. Easy walking distance from our campsite at Riverside County's Idyllwild Park. Arrive Friday evening or Saturday morning and tent camp one or two nights. Hike nature trails to spot seasonal lemon lilies, or day hike on Devil's Slide Trail (5 miles, 1700 feet of gain). Cost is \$25 for Sierra Club members. Sponsored by Pasadena Group and the Natural Science Section. Leader: Bill Joyce, 2661 College Lane, La Verne, CA 91750-3737. Info: 909-596-6280.

July 21

Little Hikers at Fairview Park, O-rated: Join us for a 1-mile hike on the bluffs. After hike, walk over the bridge for a free train ride courtesy OC Model Engineers. Newcomers, supervised children welcome. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fairview Park in Costa Mesa. Bring water, snack, hat, jacket, sturdy shoes. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles/Little Hikers/Easy Hikers. Leaders: Donna Specht (714-625-2839), Julie Garner, Ana Juarez.

July 21

Dinner and Free Evening Outdoor Concert at California Plaza in downtown LA, O-rated: Attend 8 p.m. performance. Meet 5:30 p.m. on steps at 350 S Grand Ave. Dress for evening weather. Bring money for dinner and parking. Rain cancels. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Leaders: Bob Dean and Elaine Mellinger (818-955-9065)

July 22, Aug. 19 & Sept. 5

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Newcomer Hike, O-rated: Easy paced, flat, 5-mile hike. Newcomers are welcome. Enjoy the natural beauty of Bolsa Chica, one of the last remaining wetland ecosystems in Southern California. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the reserve. Sponsored by Orange

County Sierra Singles / Easy Hikers. Leaders: Donna Specht, Julie Garner.

July 26

Sierra Singles Summer Picnic at Crystal Springs, Griffith Park: Friends and newcomers welcome to this picnic and barbecue! Meet 6:30 pm at the Crystal Springs picnic area inside the park. Bring a potluck salad and your own steak, fish, chicken or vegetarian fare to grill. Soft drinks, paper goods and charcoal provided. For details, contact: Jeanne Karpenko (jkarpenko@earthlink.net).

July 29

Mugu Peak via La Jolla Valley Loop, O-rated: Moderately paced 9 mile hike with 1,300 feet of gain in Point Mugu State Park. Meet 7 a.m. at Ray Miller trailhead, La Jolla Canyon. Wear layers, lugsoles, hat. Bring 2 quarts water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and snacks, lunch. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Leaders: Linda Hillman (805-987-0442), Mei Kwan

July 31

Fullerton Beginners Hike, O-rated: Slow to medium pace hike a beginner's hike of 4 to 5 miles in the Fullerton hills. Meet 6:30 pm every Tuesday until Oct. 30 at the northeast end of Laguna Lake in Fullerton. Wear sturdy boots, bring water & \$\$ for optional dinner afterwards. Orange County Sierra Singles and Orange County Group. Leaders Joel Ortmann, Marty Kluck. Last Tuesday of each month after the hike, we have a potluck dinner. Come and meet new friends. Host: Sanford Opperman (http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ocss)

Aug. 4

Santa Monica Pier Walk, O-rated: Socially paced 5-mile walk overlooking the ocean along Ocean Avenue/Palisades Park then onto San Vicente Blvd's tree-lined median. Approximately 3 to 4 hours. Stay for optional lunch afterward at the pier. Meet 9:30 a.m. by the merry-go-round at Colorado & Ocean avenues. Bring water, sun protection, and money for lunch; wear comfortable walking shoes. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Leaders: Elaine Ayala (310-399-5372) and Sandra Tapia

Aug. 18

Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive Historical Walk, O-rated: Socially paced 3-mile round-trip hike. Tour historic commercial and unique shopping districts. Walk exclusive Rodeo Drive, with its upscale stores and beautiful architecture. Optional lunch to follow. Meet 9:30 am in front of Starbucks 202 S Beverly Dr. Sponsored by Sierra Singles. Leaders: Bob Dean and Jean Noud. (714-841-8798)

Aug. 23-26

Treasure Lake Area Mule Pack, O rated. Hired packers carry gear of 45 pounds perperson while participants carry only daypacks. Hike from South Lake trailhead (9500 feet) near Bishop, for five miles, 900 feet of gain to camp at one of the beautiful Treasure Lakes. Two full layover days to hike, fish or relax. Enjoy group salad night, happy hours with wine provided. Trip cost per person is \$250. Sponsored by Mule Pack Section. To apply, e-mail Co-leader Dave Cross (bulwonkle@yahoo.com). Co-Leaders: Francine Oschin, Christine Gutierrez.



TOM POLITEO/CAMERA COMMITTEE

Arizona Desert Museum is one of the stops on the Oct. 4-8 trip.

Aug. 26

20s & 30s & 40s San Jacinto from the Tramway, O-rated: Take historic Palm Springs Aerial Tram up Mt. San Jacinto at 10,800 feet. Strenuous 11-mile round-trip hike to the summit with 2,500 feet of gain. Tram costs \$25 each; dinner afterward in Palm Springs. RSVP to leader with previous experience. Meet 8 a.m. at North Orange County Carpool Point. Return 9 p.m. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles. Leader: Charles G. Geller (eduright@aol.com). Co-leaders: Meriven Deocariza (merivenlives@yahoo.com) & Kenadi Le (phoenixmountain2@yahoo.com)

Aug. 26

20s & 30s & 40s Crystal Cove from the Top, O-rated: Easy-moderate paced, 6-8 mile round-trip hike with about 1,000 feet of gain. Meet 4:30 p.m. in front of restrooms at Coastal Peak Park near Corner of East Coastal Peak and Ridge Park Road, Newport Coast. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles. Leaders: Mountain Dave Kuhn (mtndave@cox.net) and Scott Closson (closs100@chapman.edu).

Aug. 28

20s & 30s & 40s Whiting Ranch Sunset Hike, O-rated: Come see sunset over the Pacific Ocean atop Whiting Ranch. Hike is 5 miles round-trip with 1,000 feet of gain. Meet 5:45 p.m. on the right side of Definition Road. Sponsored by Orange County Sierra Singles. Leader: Charles G. Geller (eduright@aol.com). Co-leader: Dave Kuhn (mtndave@cox.net).

Aug. 28

Irvine Conditioning Hikes and Barbecue Potluck, O-rated: Newcomers welcome. Join us for potluck and BBQ immediately following the hikes. \$4 donation for utensils, drinks, burgers, hot dogs, charcoal. Meet 8 pm at the picnic area of Turtle Rock Community Park. (405 Fwy, exit S at University/Jeffrey, L on Ridgeline, L on Turtle Rock, pass Sunnyhill, L into parking lot). Bring a

potluck dish for six to share and a beverage. Hosted by Turtle Rock Leaders and Orange County Sierra Singles Management Committee. (http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ocss)

Aug. 31-Sept

Thousand Island Lake-Lake Ediza Bus Backpack: Camp at stunning lakes under the peaks of the Minarets. Itinerary includes hiking from Agnew Mdws via High Trail to Thousand Island Lake, (11.5 miles, 1800 feet of gain) on Saturday; 9 miles to Lake Ediza on Sunday; and 6 miles to hike out Monday. Recent conditioning and experience a must. Cost per person is \$220 for Sierra Club members, \$240 for nonmembers. Sponsored by Backpacking Committee. Contact: Leader: Don Tidwell, (323) 349-0819; Co-Leader: Erik Siering.

Aug. 31-Sept 3

Garnet Lake, Peak 10,344, Thousand Island Lake Backpacking Bus Trip: I-rated. Spend Labor Day weekend among the beautiful lakes and peaks of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Base camp at Garnet Lake, (hike 6 miles, 2000 feet of gain). On Sunday, climb 10,344-foot peak via class 2 route, then explore Thousand Island Lake basin (7 miles, 1,100 feet of gain). Monday hike out. Experience and recent conditioning a must. Sponsored by Backpacking Committee. Trip cost per person is \$220. Contact: Leaders Sharon Moore, justslm@earthlink.net; Bruce Michaels.

Sept 8

O:Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary Fall Festival: Join us 1-4 p.m. for wine, cheese, hors d'oeuvres, festive lunch and music in this sanctuary deep in Modjeska Canyon. A guide will lead a nature walk through the winding pathways and. Live music too. Proceeds to support the sanctuary and conservation. Space is. Reservations required by Sept 1. The cost is \$25 for Sierra Club members; \$35 for non-members. Contact: Gabriele Rau, (gabrielerau@gmail.com) for information. Leaders: Chuck Buck, Patti Barnes, Bernie

Classifieds

Personals

Retired quiet GBM good shape wants to meet affectionate topman. Like nature, music & arts. MEL 213-243-9882

SWM, 63, 5' 9" ROCK CLIMBER x-country skier, likes classical music, sincerity. 310-558-1941

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X-Ski Sequoia National Monument: Small guest house at 7,200 ft. elev. \$100/night. X-Ski blue-diamond trails. 3rd night free. N/S no pets (559) 542-2032.

Lipman, Jay Matchett, Bob Siebert, Donna Specht

Oct. 4-8

Phoenix/Tucson Bus Trip, O-rated. This bus trip explores the natural desert beauty and cultural treasures of Arizona on hikes and tours. Highlights include tour of the Desert Botanical Gardens, Arcosanti, Heard Museum of early Native American cultures, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, Casa Grande ruins, Pima Air and Space Museum, Tombstone and more. Trip per person costs \$615 for Sierra Club members, \$640 for non members. Price includes bus transportation, four night hotel stays (double occupancy), daily breakfast and some other meals, entrance fees to venues and more. Sponsored by the West L.A. Group. For details, contact: Leaders Paul Cutter, (310) 837-5279, and Felicia Hammond.

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From Left, George Watland (Chapter conservation coordinator), and transportation committee members Jerard Wright, Francine Oschin, Mike Clark, honoree Darrell Clarke, Sandra Cattell at the Move LA award presentation held on June 13 in the Fred Harvey Room at Union Station.

BRIEFS/PAGE 3

Move LA hails Darrell Clarke as transportation hero

Former Angeles Chapter chair and longtime activist Darrell Clarke has been singled out as a transit champion for his dogged advocacy of public transportation in Southern California.

The transportation coalition lauded Clarke for stepping up and advocating for the Exposition Line at a time when transit's future looked especially bleak. Darrell's work dates back to 1989 when Southern Pacific Railroad offered to sell a right-of-way to the L.A. County Transportation Commission (now L.A. Metro). Clarke had read about a neighborhood meeting in Rancho Park/Cheviot Hills where residents had blasted the whole idea of light rail, and that's when he formed Friends 4 Expo.

"I didn't expect it to become a life's work," Clarke said. "I guess when you believe in something that much and you see an opportunity you just keep working for it. I certainly remember, it was 2000 or 2001 and the news was bad. But you pick

yourself up, dust yourself off and move on."

Other honorees include L.A. County Supervisors Gloria Molina, Mark Ridley-Thomas and Zev Yaroslavsky; State Sen. Kevin Murray; Duarte Mayor John Fasana; Robbie Hunter of the L.A./Orange counties Building & Construction Trades Council; and Art Hadnett of Stantec and member of the Southern California Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies

—From *Move LA reports*

Condor selected as bird of the year

The condor, one of the world's rarest and most imperiled birds, was named the Audubon California Bird of the Year. The California condor received the designation after it received nearly 35 percent of votes cast during an online poll last fall. Although the bird can be found in several southwestern states and in Mexico, it is a distinct part of California's natural heritage — so much so that it is depicted on

the California version of the U.S. quarter.

The California condor has been in sharp decline for more than 100 years. It was first listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1967, and in the mid-1980s reached a low of 22 individual birds. Since then, an aggressive captive breeding and release program by a group of government agencies and nonprofit organizations has built the population up to 394 total birds, 205 of which are in the wild.

—*Condor Call, Los Padres Sierra Club*

Calling all leaders for outings summit

The Angeles Chapter will host an all-day Outings Assembly on Nov. 3 designed to bring together outings leaders, provisional leaders and outings chairs. The group will kick around ideas for future activities and outings and elect members of two key committees: Outings Management and Safety and Leadership Training. The event is sponsored by the Chapter Outings Management Committee. Meet 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena. Contact: Outings Management Committee Chair Melody Anderson or Donna Specht (donnaSpecht@juno.com)

'Where's the beef' from?

Hamburgers have long been considered one of America's most traditional foods. But, many of us may soon be stocking our freezers with veggie burgers instead.

A recent Reuters report suggests that World Trade Organization rules will soon prohibit the labeling of meat as to the country of origin. That means that American consumers will have no idea where the meat products they consume originated or if they were processed in a man-

ner which would induce them to eat the meat.

The ground meat horror stories publicized by Eric Schlosser in his book "Fast Food Nation" helped push for the inclusion of COOL (country of origin labeling) in the 2007-08 Farm Bill. COOL said that beef, lamb, pork, chicken, or goat meat could only be designated as "Made in the USA" if it were "exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States."

Now the American COOL law has been challenged. Mexico, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, the European Union, Guatemala, India, Korea, New

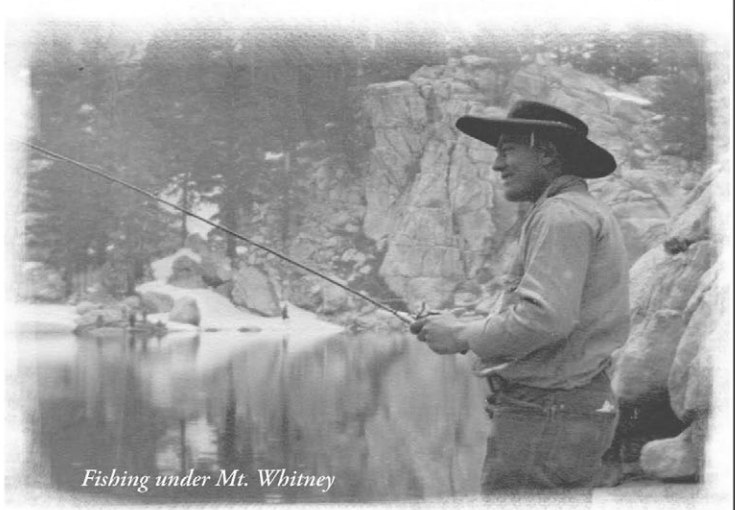
Zealand, Peru, New Zealand and Taipei have all asked the WTO to step in and squash the U.S. meat labeling program.

It is still unclear which WTO rule the U.S. is violating by labeling meat. The probable conclusion is that the U.S. can't institute a meat labeling program if by doing so consumers will choose against buying meat from unknown countries whose processing standards are hygienically questionable (and ground meat that may come from hundreds of animals and dozens of countries).

—*Joan Jones Holtz, Sierra Club Trade Team*

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Lodge:

O: Mammoth Lakes Bus Lodge Hiking Trip: Leave Friday afternoon, return Monday evening. Join us as we hike & sightsee at spectacular Mammoth Lakes. No beginners. Moderate 5-6 mile day hikes. Beautiful view hikes include Horseshoe Lake to Reds Meadow, Devil's Postpile NM & Rainbow Falls. Relax at night with dining & self-guided evening walks. Space is very limited. Cost includes bus, 3 nights lodging w/hot buffet breakfast in Mammoth Lakes plus Monday night dinner. 2 persons per room. Send Email address or 2-4X9 SASEs, H&W phones, SC#, check (Sierra Club) \$480 per person. Non-member check \$530, made out to Sierra Club Backpacking Committee. Send to Leader/Reservationist Bill Crane bilguana@socal.rr.com, Co-Leader Joan Weaver.

Backpack:

O: Thousand Island Lake-Lake Ediza Bus Backpack: Camp at stunning lakes under the peaks of the Minarets. Hike with expansive views on first day and many lakes on second day. Leave LA Fri for Mammoth. Sat hike from Agnew Mdw via High Trail to Thousand Island Lake, 11.5 mi, 1800' gain. Move 9 mi to Lake Ediza on Sun and explore area. Monday hike out 6 mi. Moderately strenuous climb first day, smaller ups and downs 2nd day. Email leader with recent conditioning and experience and contact information or send 2 SASE with check and info. Price incl bus, campsite, permit, Mon dinner. See front of Schedule for refund info and policies. Send check for \$220 w/SC#, \$240 w/o, payable to Sierra Club, to Ldr: Don Tidwell tidwell@dslextreme.com, Asst: Erik Siering.



Photo by Don Tidwell

Thirty-Eighth Annual Hawai'iian Islands Hiking Adventure On The Big Island

Saturday Through Saturday • June 22-29, 2013



Photo by Bill Crane

Lodge Only:

O: Thirty-Eighth Annual Hawai'iian Islands Hiking Adventure, The Big Island. In 8 days experience the unique and outstanding natural beauty of The Big Island. Hike into lush Waipio Valley in the North Kohala rainforest (4 miles, 930' loss and gain) to black sand beach & view waterfalls (stream crossings). Hike Akaka Falls (422') State Park. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park steam vents: hike across the still-steaming crater floor on the Kilauea Iki Loop Trail (4 Miles, 500 loss/gain); visit Jagger Volcano Observatory, hike thru Thurston Lava Tube, & evening lava viewing hike (Pele permitting). Observe Hawai'iian Green sea turtles at Punlu'u Beach Park. Snorkel/swim at picturesque beach w/colorful tropical fish and sea turtles. Meals cooked group commissary style - all help with duties. Cost: \$1,325 w/SC# / \$1,457 non-member before April 1, 2013; April 1-June 1 \$1,457/\$1,603; after June 1 \$1,603/\$1,764. Covered activities/costs: All ground transportation; cooking gear, logistics; all sumptuous breakfasts and dinners (ahi and two other BBQs); 2 nights Kalopa State Park cabins, 3 at cabins in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and 2 nights Kona-Kailua beachfront condos (full kitchens, swimming pool, whirlpool spas); grand finale Aloha restaurant dinner. Bring sleeping bag & small pillow. Airfare is extra - best prices early. Cancellations received in writing after April 1, incur a \$385 penalty; after May 3, a \$662.50 penalty; after June 1 or no-shows forfeit all monies. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Limit: 14; fills fast. For info only, send 1 self-addressed-stamped envelope. To sign-up, send email address, or three 4x9 SASE's if no email, with Home/Cell/Work phone #'s, \$385 deposit/\$85 non-ref (made out to Sierra Club), experience/conditioning info to Leader: Bill Crane bilguana@socal.rr.com, Asst: Joan Weaver